

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:LWSEMAKIS:PM
APPROVED BY NEA/EGY:HFMATTHEWS
NEA/P:GSHERMAN

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R 241810Z DEC 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 281009

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, EG

SUBJECT: CBS REQUESTS ASSISTANCE ON MAILINGS TO EGYPT

1. MARVIN KALB (CBS) CONTACTED DEPARTMENT (EGY) DECEMBER 23 TO REPORT THAT EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES ARE INTERCEPTING DOLLAR CHECK PAYMENTS FROM CBS FOR TWO EGYPTIAN CBS EMPLOY-

EES IN CAIRO. ACCORDING TO KALB, THE CHECKS DO NOT REACH THEIR EMPLOYEES DIRECTLY BUT INSTEAD ARE INTERCEPTED AND THEN DEPOSITED BY THE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES INTO THE ACCOUNTS OF THE CBS EMPLOYEES. THIS PRACTICE WAS INSTITUTED A FEW MONTHS AGO AND IS A CHANGE FROM THE PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY EGYPTIAN EMPLOYEES OF CBS RECEIVED THEIR CHECKS DIRECTLY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL MAIL.

2. KALB IS UNABLE TO SHED LIGHT ON THE REASON BEHIND THE INSTITUTION OF THE NEW PROCEDURE, BUT CBS IS UNHAPPY ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENT. KALB HAS ASKED IF THERE IS NOT SOME PROCEDURE WHEREBY CBS MIGHT USE DEPARTMENT MAILING FACILITIES FOR DELIVERING SUCH CHECKS.

3. SINCE KALB DOES NOT HAVE ALL THE FACTS AND GIVEN THE UNORTHODOX NATURE OF HIS REQUEST, WE HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT HE ADVISE BOB ALLISON, CBS U.S. CITIZEN REP IN CAIRO, TO CONTACT EMBASSY AND LAY OUT THE FACTS. WITHOUT ENCOURAGING
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KALB, WE HAVE TOLD HIM WE WOULD AWAIT THE EMBASSY'S REPORT

AND THEN CONSIDER WHAT APPROPRIATE ACTION USG MIGHT TAKE.
WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S REPORT OF SITUATION AND COM-
MENTS ON HOW BEST TO HANDLE CBS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.

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